



## **A Resolution Expressing the Sunset Beach Town Council Opposition to the North Carolina General Assembly's Proposal in House Bill 97 to Remove the Historical 1879 New Inlet Dam**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach is committed to being a steward of the Region's unique coastal environment, including estuaries, marshes, barrier islands and pristine beaches; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach recognizes that the Town of Sunset Beach and other coastal municipalities' economic survival depends on the sustainability of the existing environment and this proposed legislation necessitates a strong response by coastal communities, environmental conservation organizations, and all interested persons and businesses to oppose this serious economic and environmental threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach understand that, based on the analysis (included in this document) of Erik Olsen, P. E., if the Southern half of the New Inlet Dam is removed, serious negative consequences will occur. Mr. Olsen has decades of experience with coastal North Carolina and these issues and his opinions are shared by other coastal engineers that have reviewed this issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative effects may include but are not limited to alterations to the Cape Fear River's salinity regime, essential fish habitat and ecosystems-with the introduction of a second tidal inlet. Additionally, hydraulic condition changes would substantially influence littoral processes and sediment transport at Oak Island, Bald Head Island and at Fort Fisher, jeopardizing barrier island protection; and

**WHEREAS**, changes in tidal flows through the mouth of the Cape Fear River could create alterations within the AIWW and in the vicinity of Southport, creating associated water quality changes because of reductions in water exchange and in particular within the canalized (manmade) segment of the Intracoastal Waterway; and

**WHEREAS**, the reintroduction of a major inlet connecting the Cape Fear River with the Atlantic Ocean would allow increased flooding due to storm surges associated with major storm events.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach** are opposed to SECTION 14.6(h) of the current version of HOUSE BILL 97 which proposes to remove the historical New Inlet Dam to allow the reopening of New Inlet, which has been closed since 1879; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the **Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach** stands in solidarity with our regional coastal communities who may suffer long-term social, economic and environmental impacts of removing the New Inlet Dam.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the **Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach** calls upon all North Carolina Municipal and county governing bodies of North Carolina to pass resolutions similar to this one and that the League of Municipalities join in this effort.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the **Town Council for the Town of Sunset Beach** urge Governor McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly to oppose policies that risk the health, safety and sound environmental stewardship of North Carolina's coastline, whose natural beauty attracts a proven tourism-driven economy.

Adopted this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

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Ronald Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lisa H. Anglin, Town Clerk